

# **Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry**

969 McCARTER HIGHWAY, NEWARK, N.J. 07102

16 March 1982

TO: Greater Newark Churches  
N.J. Council of Churches  
MEM Constituencies

RE: SUPPORT FOR A LOCAL ECUMENICAL INITIATIVE ON TOXIC WASTE

The people of the Ironbound section of Newark are very alarmed about plans to place a toxic waste incinerator--which will receive Northeast corridor toxic waste--in their community.

To its credit, the local Ironbound Ecumenical Association, which embraces some fifteen Protestant and Catholic and Evangelical churches, recently took up the issue and acted to call upon ecumenical forces in the state to support the Association's opposition to toxic waste incineration near major human settlements.

The MEM board of directors has voted to support the Ironbound initiative and to address this appeal to the wider ecumenical family.

Simply put, we urge congregations, ecumenical units and public mission units in the denominations to convey opposition to toxic waste incineration facilities in Newark's Ironbound section or in other major human settlement areas to the agency which must rule on the proposal, the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection.

Address: The Commissioner  
N.J. Department of Environmental Protection  
CN402  
Trenton, N.J. 08625

It will be helpful to send copies to:

- 1) Governor Thomas Kean  
State House  
Trenton, N.J. 08625
- 2) Mr. George Tyler, Assistant Commissioner  
for Management and Control  
N.J. Department of Environmental Protection  
CN402  
Trenton, N.J. 08625
- 3) Mr. Jack Stanton, Director, Division of  
Environmental Quality  
N.J. Department of Environmental Protection  
CN402  
Trenton, N.J. 08625

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We ask your solidarity with the Ironbound people and churches for the following reasons:

- 1) Toxic wastes should be isolated from people.
- 2) Toxic waste incinerators are in the experimental stage of development.
- 3) N.J. and out-of-state public authorities have seriously questioned the reliability of the Ironbound applicant to properly operate hazardous waste facilities.

Further information may be secured, as desired, from a) the Ironbound Community Health Project, 95 Fleming Avenue, Newark 07105, and/or The Environmental Research Foundation, 29 Pine Knoll Drive, Lawrenceville, N.J. 08648.

We view the Ironbound churches' initiative as serving the interest of humanity well beyond Newark alone; it is fully in accord with a teaching of Lent, namely, that "justice shall dwell in the (urban) wilderness, and the wilderness shall be a fruitful field..." (Isaiah 32)

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Executive Director  
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